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## THE CURTAIN OF THE NEW CASINO.

AMONG the recent additions to the architectural beauties of the metropolis, is the new Casino at the corner of Thirty-eight Street and Broadway. This place of amusement in both its exterior and interior finish is altogether different from any of its many companions. Although the date of its opening has been twice announced, it is not yet completed, and will not be entirely finished for nearly a month to come. The DECORATOR AND FURNISHER is not able, therefore, to give a detailed description of its interior in this number, but we are enabled, through the courtesy of Mr. Aronson, and the gentlemen mentioned below, to lay before our readers a description of the beautiful and exceptional curtain which is now nearly finished. It will, when hung, doubtless be considered the handsomest in any theatre in the city. It will have cost several thousand dollars, and occupied many months in making. Sixteen persons have been constantly engaged on it, and now, even though it be incomplete, it presents a most pleasing appearance, and will doubtless produce a sensation on the opening night. It may not be out of place to say that the general effect of the theatre itself will be quite light. The upholstering and finish being in light blue plush and gold. On the other hand the general effect of the curtain will be quite dark, so that the contrast will be most distinct and marked.

The curtain proper will be thirty-nine feet high by thirty-three broad, and will be divided into two equal sections, each the counterpart of the other. It will roll up diagonally from the centre lower corners towards the left and right upper corners. It will be understood that the following description will be of one-half the curtain, as both portions are exactly alike.

The centre is a panel eight feet square, the ground work of which is dark green satin framed in wide plush of a little darker shade. The panel will be studded with countless jewels, large and small. Worked in with these will be gold, silver and steel cloth, gold and silver braiding and different colored cords. Interspersed most profusely are coins and spangles. This center piece is a marvel of beautiful design, and is made entirely by hand.

Surrounding this framed panel is a wide band of plush in ecru shade, joined at the corners by four square pieces of blue plush, in the centre of each there being set a jewel. Next to this is a large blue cord about two inches in diameter, in which a gold band is inserted. Meeting this are four panels of green satin, about two shades lighter than the centre; these are braided with gold braid in a very pretty design. More of the same blue cord, already described, connects these panels with a plain band of olive green satin, at the bottom of the curtain.

Surrounding this on the top, and left and right sides will be a wide band of dark blue plush in two parts, the outside being arcade work, and the inner piece being scroll work in gold and silver. Surrounding this will be double lambrequins which, next to the centre panel, will be the handsomest part of the curtain. These will be in the shape of an arch, the under lambrequin being of a bronze color, trimmed with chenille fringe, the over or upper lambrequin being of a very deep peacock

blue plush. The base of the curtain will be a dark blue fringe with beautiful gold and silver trimming. This will be about two feet wide and with heavy tassels only a few inches apart. The lining will be separated from the curtain in such a manner that the bright light at the back will shine through, giving a very rich effect to the sparkling jewels, the gold and silver braiding, the beautiful fringe, and the lambrequins at the sides and top. The effect thus produced will not only be rich, but novel. The proscenium surrounding the curtain will be entirely of metal, oxidized silver, and damaskened steel. It will be finished with Oriental scenes and quaint designs, and giving a very beautiful blending with the adjoining blue. The entire curtain

under the supervision of these two gentlemen, and the production of such an elegant piece of work must reflect great credit on the tastes and efforts of these artists. Whether the result of their undertaking be admired or condemned they will, nevertheless, feel assured that they have given to the music loving audiences of New York a wonderful example of the effects of blending of colors, a combination of fancy and a noble work, making in its perfected state a most beautiful piece of art.

## TAPESTRIES AND TEXTILES.

THE woven stuffs to which we now apply the name of textiles, have had origins more or less remote from civilization; they have grown apparently from an inferior character of work, and whilst it is natural that succeeding ages should improve upon the arts of their ancestors, it is not usual to make such a radical change in the principles even of an art, as has been shown in the weaving of cloth. From the formation of a cloth by "mashing," or pressing together many particles or pieces of bark, wool, fibrous vegetable matter and hides, the idea of a loom was evolved, and the interweaving of individual threads replaced the amalgamating process.

In the first days of this new process the threads were plaited, and specimens of this work are frequently discovered. The spindle and the distaff soon made their appearance, and spinsters drew silvery threads from the mass of wool.

Flax was little used, in fact it is doubtful whether its merits or possibilities were known to early peoples, and silk was reckoned amongst the treasures of kings, so rare and expensive was it.

Egyptian handicraft made the finest linens that the world has known, and exhumed mummies are often wrapped in this expensive material. Historians have told us of this production of Egypt, and Herodotus refers to a linen corslet given by King Amasis to the Minerva of Lindus, and Rev. Mr. Rock quotes Sir Gardiner Wilkinson as an authority for the statement that Egyptian linen has been found to have "140 threads in an inch in the warp and about 64 in the woof."

With a people so fond of elaboration and embellishments, with tastes so refined and rich as the Egyptians, it is natural that gold and other metals should have been incorporated with the linen, in the meshes of their cloth. Dyes of unparalleled brilliancy were employed, and the scarcely less costly purple rivalled the precious ore in its attractiveness and effect. Kings were clothed in costumes from such materials, and queens displayed a magnificence that was

equalled only by the products of Asia.

This eastern country, from Damascus to Persia, was a busy scene of spinners and weavers, and the textiles from their looms have never been excelled in workmanship and durability.

The tasteful character of the people of the Asiatic and Mediterranean countries, prompted hangings for entrances in place of any substantial means of keeping out air, light and intruders, and some of the handsomest designs have been made for purposes such as this, and the early ancestors of the pictured tapestries that clothe the walls at Versailles were worthy of their successors.



DRAPERY DESIGN—FROM DIE MAPPE.

will have an arabesque effect, and will be an imitation of an Arabian banner. On either side will be ten boxes, upholstered and finished to match the lambrequins.

The drop curtain has not yet been made, and the management are not able to say what it will be. The curtain itself must be seen to be appreciated, as no description can do it justice. It will, undoubtedly, be very severely criticized, as it will at first strike the observer as bold in its designs, oftentimes severe in its shades and colors, and purely original in its entirety. The designer is Mr. Wisedell, the architect of the casino, who has been assisted by Mr. Stieperich. It has been entirely





No. 1.—George and Arabella fall in love with a new sofa (price \$40), yes, it was just what they wanted, but after a long debate—



No. 2.—They decide to economize a little by taking the old sofa, which is upstairs, and making it do for the season. All it needs is a new spring and the hind leg fixed, and Arabella will make a cover for it herself—"it can't cost much."



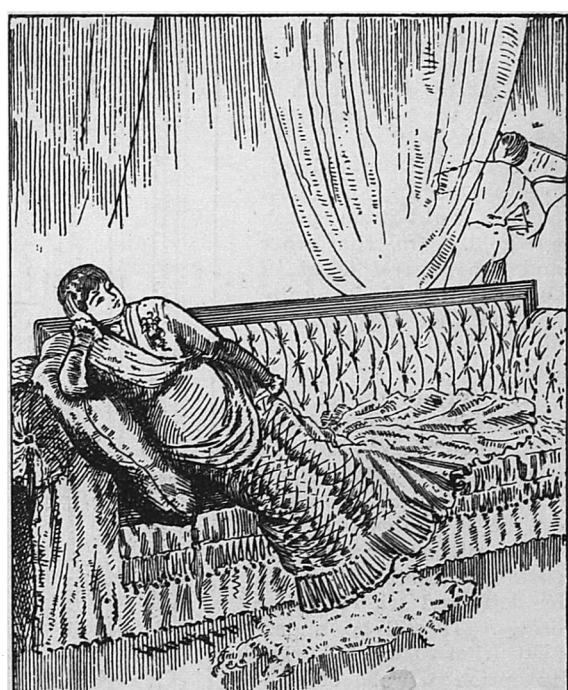
No. 3.—The old sofa comes back from the repairer's—new springs and legs; the cover is placed on it, the general effect is *not* satisfactory. They decide that the back should be cut off.



No. 4.—It again comes home, the back cut off. Now, of course, the cover will not fit; in despair they decide to have it upholstered in reps; of course it will be expensive, "but then, we shall have a nice thing."



No. 5.—The old sofa home once more, upholstered in reps. They count the cost: New springs and legs, \$15; alterations in back, \$8; upholstery in reps, \$15; cover, which was not used, \$4; total, \$42. Cost of the much coveted new sofa was \$40; but the saddest part is, the old sofa, notwithstanding its expensive repairs, is nothing but an old sofa still—a disappointment, an eye-sore, a *belles noir*.



No. 6.—Final Tableau. The old sofa "toted" back up stairs—the new sofa purchased—peace reigns—so *fa*, so good.

#### TRADE OPINIONS BY REPRESENTATIVE DEALERS.

WITHOUT exception, the Fall trade, which is now rapidly under way, will show greater results than in any preceding season. The manufacturer, general dealer and retailer in chamber and parlor furniture and in carpets, the upholsterer, the fancy and artistic dealer, the lace curtain and tapestry importer; in fact, every branch of the trade reports the same thing, an unusually brisk Fall business, which promises to exceed that of any previous year. Among so many and such large sales, it is to be inferred that, in addition to the regular lines of goods, many novelties are being shown. With a view of obtaining the personal opinions of leading dealers, as to the condition of business, novelties, prevailing styles, etc., a representative of this journal called upon the gentlemen named below, with results as stated.

— \* —  
MR. REUNE MARTIN, of the Hartford Carpet Co., thought the trade had been larger than ever before known. The production has been much greater, and the country has taken the whole production. This might be attributable to various causes; perhaps more than anything else, to the growing increase in population and the large number of new buildings. These causes, aided by a general season of prosperity, have given buyers confidence. Mr. Martin thought there was a tendency towards smaller patterns and more quiet colors, though brighter colors might prevail among the country trade. The people were becoming more cultivated, and a much higher standard, consequently, was necessary.

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MR. SMITH, of Messrs. Walter Scott & Co., reported that business had been fully as good, if not better, than they had anticipated. Regarding the particular figure or color that had prevailed, he thought that in the Brussels the Ecru still retained its popularity, and probably would for some time to come, though there was a disposition to give way to an old gold ground. Bold floral designs seemed to take the lead, if any, though general styles prevailed. Subdued colors and patterns did not seem to take well at all, while there had been heavy sales in rich, tasty designs. The writer was shown a style called the Moresque effect, which has had a large sale,

and which was, indeed, a beautiful carpet. The ground, instead of being one shade, was made up of two or three colors, twisted in one skein, and producing a most pleasing effect.

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GOV. DAVIS, of Messrs. H. B. Claffin & Co., said the increase of trade thus far was 25 per cent. more than the corresponding time last year. The Southern trade with them had been very large. As regarded styles and colors, he thought these were apt to follow the prevailing hues in upholstery, ribbons, dress goods, &c.; they were becoming more delicate and figures were finer. The great quantity of new buildings, no doubt, contributed very largely to the increased sales, making the season much earlier and longer. The Fall trade was growing and constantly taking from the Spring trade. People were no longer buying their carpets in the Spring, and shutting up their homes for the Summer, instead they are now buying in the Fall. The rug trade has been almost double that of any previous season, and is constantly on the increase.

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A representative of Mr. KENDALL, of the Bigelow Carpet Co., reported the sales of the present season as almost 50 per cent. in advance of last season. Catering as they did, to various classes, they have hardly any particular prevailing shade or design. Though there might be a tendency towards finer figures, there was, nevertheless, a large demand for bold, striking designs, while in color there are a multitude of shades; as carpets are made to match the upholstery and furnishing of a room, there must be a great variety to choose from.

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A representative of the Lowell Carpet Co. reported that they were all sold up. Their sales had been large, and mostly to Northern and Western buyers. Ecru seemed to be a prominent color, and there had been a demand for bold and striking figures and floral designs.

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MR. BRESFORD, of the firm of Messrs. Jos. Wild & Co., stated that their trade a year ago was very large, and their business this Fall was about the same. They anticipate a very large trade during the next two months, and thought in the

Spring it would be still better. There were few novelties in the way of mats and matting, though in rugs there was a demand for rich and expensive styles. Many of these were imported, and were, indeed, very fine.

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With MESSRS. SHEPARD KNAFF & Co., everything was very brisk, and a large business was reported. As far as styles and colors were concerned, there seemed to be a call for floral designs, and Ecru was by far the predominant color. There is considerable tendency toward "high art" patterns, and the prevailing so-called "craze" was quite a governing element. But withal, there was a growing disposition to make tasty and sensible selections.

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MR. SLOANE, of Messrs. W. & J. Sloane, was hardly prepared to give any estimate of what the seasons trade would foot up, but from present indications thought it would be unusually large. The trade in their new and most commodious quarters was fully up to their anticipations. They had no particular novelty which they were offering, the same figures and shades of last season being mostly called for. Being asked if there was not a tendency towards smaller figures, Mr. Sloan replied, that so many of their patterns had been of the finer kind, that they hardly noted the change, if, indeed, there was any.

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THE PHENIX FURNITURE Co. report that their sales, and those of other manufacturers, are the greatest ever known. Mahogany is the leading wood, though ebony goods are having quite a sale. A combination desk in cherry is having a good run, while the cheval glass suits are again coming in vogue. A new feature of the rolling-top desk is a covering of wood, to replace the former cloth coverings, which soon became soiled. They are doing a considerable export trade, sending goods to Africa, Jamaica and Mexico.

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MR. WHEELLOCK, of Messrs. Nelson, Matter & Co., gave it as his opinion that walnut would be more popular and more used this year than any other. He said they were making at least 75 per cent. of

(Continued on following pages.)

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